THE EXAMINER.

No. 169 SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 1811

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. SWIFT.

No. 165.

CHANCELLORSHIP OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

THE connection between politics and literature may well be doubted by those who are accustomed to regard the former in their common-place light of news and party-struggles, and who for more than thirty years have witnessed the utter neglect with which English Ministers have treated the latter. But no doubt was ever entertained on the subject by men of enlarged minds; and no such neglect was ever exhibited by intelligent rulers, whatever may have been their designs or opinions with regard to government in general. AUGUSTUS and ALFRED, two men whom in point of principle it is almost a profanation of the latter to name together, equally understood the advantages of cultivating learning, the one patronizing it for ambition's sake, the other to render his people wise. Nothing can hinder a proper feeling in this matter but the "necessity" of some vile subserviency to the times, as in the case of CROMWELL; or sheer bigotry and ignorance, as in that of the late Spanish Government; or a half-witted idea of politics in general, as we see every day in the conduct of our Ministers. But even these departures from what is wise and liberal betray an unconscious knowledge of the importance of what they avoid,—a sort of instinct which leads them to turn away from what is foreign to their natures and inimical to their designs. Thus power, however bigoted, has always been fond of meddling with the concerns of literature; for where it's fears of self-detection have induced it to evince a contempt for learning, it's jealousy of others has still been strong enough to make it interfere with it in some way, and endeavour to pollute the republic of letters by introducing into it the influence of courts. It is on this account, that the Newspaper Press, which is constantly before the eyes of Ministers, and forms an obstacle which they can neither overlook nor despise, attracts the honour of their attention in preference to the more delicate and retired exercises of authorship. It is on this account, that the court has always claimed a jurisdiction over the theatres; that favour is always ready for those who will write, no matter how wretchedly, on the ministerial side of things; and that a particular earnestness is shewn, as in the late contest at Oxford, to maintain an influence in such offices and appointments, as in any degree whatever help to give a tone to the learning of the times, and to facilitate or hinder the pollution above-mentioned.

Our Imperial enemy, who as a leader gives us so many good lessons for adoption, and as a despot so many equally good ones for avoidance, is a complete instance of the use and abuse of patronage in matters of learning. The princely encouragement he shews to chemical and scientific enquiries, to the fine arts, and to ornamental literature, is worthy of the imitation of all governments; but nothing can more plainly shew the fears as well as the natural corruption of arbitrary power, than the slavery to which he has reduced the press in general, and the aversion with which he regards free discussion of every kind, that is not within the limits of his own interest, and calculated to diffuse what he calls his glory. The wretch who is prepared to write in defence of all that he does,—of his tyranny at home and usurpation abroad,—is sure of his countenance; but no Frenchman dares to express a disagreement with the existing state of things, or to hint at the smallest amelioration in the condition of his subjects, that is displeasing to him. Such has been the case, as far as it is possible in a free country, whenever the rulers have been conscious of violating the people's rights, or of acting in any other manner so as to render them impatient of inquiry. What displayed, at once, the whole system of BONAPARTE with regard to letters, was his famous Decree of 1798 for the organization of an Imperial University, or rather for the incorporation of all the Colleges and public teachers in the empire into one general body, immediately dependent on the Emperor. By these means, at one stroke of this mighty magician's sceptre, education and slavery were engrafted together all over his empire; and wherever the former springs up, the latter clings round it, to check it's growth and poison it's productions.

Such a proceeding appears monstrous in the eyes of Englishmen; and long may it be deemed so! But as power, of whatever kind, has a perpetual tendency to encroachment,—as the corruption of our institutions appears to many persons to lead towards despotism,—and as we have daily proof in the neighbour country that the enslavement of mens' persons can only be attained and secured by the subjection of their understandings,—there is no jealousy more incumbent upon us all than that which regards the introduction of court influence into the places of education. In most places of the kind there is quite enough already, in consequence of their charters, governors, and public patrons; or where these do not exist, from the natural love of pedagogues for arbitrary power, and the great body of expectant clergy, who have the chief hand in tuition. This is particularly the case with our two Universities, where though there are numbers of liberal men in every class, yet court-influence is predominant to a degree utterly incompatible with the native freedom of literature, setting aside even the frivolous distinctions of

worldly rank, the gold tassels, honorary degrees, and all the other petty absurdities so *unconstitutional* in the *republic of letters*. If this influence was used only to encourage a proper spirit of enquiry;—if it rewarded only the meritorious in learning, and set its face against none but the dull and the disorderly, it could well excuse itself, however we might be alarmed at its progress: but it is not the nature of such influence to promote freedom of any kind: it lives upon subserviency; and subserviency therefore is what it desires in preference to every other species of recommendation. Thus the same feeling, which originally forbade the reading of Locke's Works at College, has occupied itself of late years in discountenancing Anti-Pittites and Reformists. Both the Universities are represented in Parliament by men in office; and the influence of one or two great families is notorious: indeed it is never mentioned without indignation by such of its members as have a proper respect either for rational freedom or real learning, and wish to see the highest offices and preferments beyond the reach of bowing courtiers, and dignitaries who are great in nothing but gout.

The Chancellorship, (I shall not stop to enquire how reasonably) is an office confined to men of rank; and is generally bestowed upon such as are of political consequence in the state. There is seldom much choice therefore between two persons who start for it's attainment, unless one of them *happens* to be a learned man, or a patron of the liberal arts; and then the hesitation cannot be great in the minds of those who are not immediately under court influence. In the late contest at Oxford, the candidates, though of different parties, were both of what are called *high* state principles, that is to say, staunch aristocrats, and defenders of influence; so that court-feeling, in the abstract, had nothing to lose by the success of either: yet the election of Lord Grenville was thought a singular and almost unaccountable triumph, inasmuch as he was in opposition and a friend to Catholic emancipation. The death of the Duke of Grafton* has occasioned a vacancy in the Chancellorship of the other University; and two candidates have started, who though very different from the two just mentioned both in habit and influence, have yet a similar agreement with regard to the general qualifications for the office; that is, they are both highly connected, one of them prepared to think every thing ministerial excellent, and the other, though not thinking so, very far from a connection with what are called the dangerous innovators of the day. The contest therefore is expected to be a sharp one, *solely* because one of them is ministerial, and the other is not: whereas those who think that intelligence and public spirit have any thing to do with the matter, treat the distinction with contempt; and hesitate not a moment in making their choice. The ministerial claimant is the Duke of Rutland; and the grounds on which he anticipates success, are too curious to be abridged from his own words. The following letter from his Grace to the Vice-Chancellor was read in the Senate-House at Cambridge on the 15th instant:—

Belvoir Castle, 6th March.

Sir,—Having heard that the Duke of Grafton is in such a dangerous state of health as to preclude any hope of his recovery, it becomes, therefore, my duty, and I trust that I shall stand excused in your sight for the presumption of my expectations, to notify to you my intention of becoming a candidate for the dignified and distinguished office in your University, which will be vacated by the lamented event of his Grace's death.

I will not, because I cannot, look for foundation to my pretentions in any individual merits of my own; but I ask permission to state, as a circumstance of no trivial importance and gratification to me, my belief that *his Majesty* has been graciously pleased to express himself favourably to my cause; and I have the additional pleasure of receiving the warmest assurances of support from the *Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Perceval.*

I will no further intrude upon you at this present moment, than to request that you will make *such use* of this letter, and of the facts alluded to in it, as may appear advisable to you.—I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, Sir, your most obedient and humble servant, Rutland.

The very Rev. the Vice Chancellor.

This curious epistle, of which, it is to be lamented, the folly is not so great as the indecency, produced one on the same subject from the other candidate, the Duke of Gloucester, who writes as follows:—

March 15th, 1811.

Sir—As my wishes in respect to the Chancellorship of the University have been long and generally known, I should have thought it unnecessary, and perhaps indelicate, to have expressed them formally to you, as Vice Chancellor, before the expected vacancy had taken place. Having learned, however, that another person has officially declared himself a candidate, and even assigned reasons which induce him to hope that the University will support him, and many members of the Senate having solicited me to make a public declaration of my sentiments, I am apprehensive that my silence, if longer continued, might be construed into disrespect.

I will now, therefore, express the very high gratification I should feel at seeing myself chosen to fill the office of Chancellor; if the Senate should think proper to confer upon me a charge that must be so truly flattering to one who was educated at Cambridge, and who feels so warmly attached to the University.

I ground not my pretensions upon the influence of any man, however exalted his rank or character. I ground my pretensions upon my exclusive and unalterable attachment to the place of my education; being the only one of the Royal Family who has studied in an English University.

* This nobleman, who made such a figure in the early part of the present reign as a placeman and man of pleasure, passed the latter part of his life unnoticed; and his death has scarcely called up an observation from the Newspapers. Sic transit gloria mundi! So pass away men of the world!—Unluckily for his Grace, however, he is still to be found in the pages of Junius.—It was curious, though certainly it could not be reasonably censured by the most orthodox churchman, to see the Chancellor of the University of Cambridge going on Sundays to the *Unitarian* Chapel in Essex-street. The regular clergymen might have wished that his Grace had been a little less scrupulous in his arithmetic; but his choice of the sect was at any rate a proof his conscientiousness; and every good christian must have contemplated with pleasure so great a change in his Grace's life.—The Duke, I believe, did nothing remarkable in his collegiate office, in spite of the poetical anticipations of Gray, who in the Ode on his Grace's installation, seems to have descended a little from that elevation of mind which he affected respecting kings and nobles.

I should take peculiar pride in promoting the interests of that Body to which I have the honour to belong; and I trust that the unvaried deference to your laws and discipline, which I paid during my residence at Cambridge, will be an earnest of my endeavours to maintain your privileges, if entrusted to me as your Chancellor.—I am, with the highest esteem, and great personal regard, Sir, very sincerely your's,

WILLIAM FREDERICK.

To the Right Worshipful the Vice Chancellor of the University of Cambridge.

From these two letters alone, a rational and liberal mind could easily make it's choice between the candidates: and indeed there is no light in which they can be viewed together that does not strike forcibly on the superior pretensions of the latter. The first question an elector puts to himself on such occasions are, Who are these two men? How, and by what, do I know them? For what are they known in general?—To answer these very simple questions with regard to the Duke of RUTLAND, would be no easy matter even for persons well acquainted with men and things in general. It is true, the Cambridge people know his Grace better than we in London, who are absorbed in politics; but for what do they know him? For his having distinguished himself at his college? or for his notice of others who distinguished themselves? or for his patronage of learning and taste in general? Not a jot of it. They know him as a Duke, as a "ministerial man," as a relation of the Archbishop of CANTERBURY, as the Recorder of CAMBRIDGE, as having great interest in the county, and, I dare say, as possessing real talents for a pursuit in which he is most ambitious of shining, the pursuit of hares and pheasants. So peculiar a feature does this form in his character, that when enquiring persons look into lists of our nobility to see what valuable leaders they possess in these perilous times, they find his Grace immortalized in the Biographical Peerage under these terms, "He takes no active part in politics; but is fond of the sports of the field." To prove however that though he takes no active part in politics, he takes as laudable a one as he can, *his* Grace assures us that he has the good word of his MAJESTY, and has even a warm corner in the heart of Mr. PERCEVAL; and these merits, in the absence of all others, he thinks quite sufficient in the eyes of scholars and divines to make him the head of an English University! His Grace may be in the right; but to persons, who look on without having any interest in the contest, such ideas of the grounds of qualification appear the grossest of all insults, and an aspersion on the character of the University, which nothing but their rejection of him can wipe away.

On the other hand, the Duke of GLOUCESTER is universally known, and, I believe, out of the immediate sphere of the placemen, universally mentioned with respect. He is known and respected, as a Prince without the usual follies of our living Princes: his excellent conduct when at the University is acknowledged by every body there:—though of the Blood Royal, his politics are independent: if we hear nothing particular of his acquirements as a scholar, he has the next best merit that should recommend him to the honours of learning, an attachment to the arts in general, and particularly to the Fine Arts, of which he is an active encourager; and lastly, his name will be handed down to the respect of posterity, as a member of that noble Institution, and an assistant of those illustrious individuals, by whose exertions Africa has been pronounced free, and an era been marked out for humanity and liberty in an age of bloodshed and subjugation. His Highness might have referred to circumstances like this with much more propriety than his opponent has referred to the favourable opinions of a disordered understanding and an interested Minister: but he chose to act with a spirit becoming his dignity and his pretensions; and to those who are not aware of the influence which is possessed by property in the country, backed by servility to the Minister, it is not easy to conceive how a person, so insignificant in every other respect as the Duke of RUTLAND, can stand for a moment against the exemplary conduct and enlarged spirit of the Duke of GLOUCESTER.

To his Highness indeed no objection appears to be started, even by those who are friendly to his opponent; and perhaps none can be found, except that they differ with him in politics. The Duke of RUTLAND, on the contrary, is objectionable in every view of his pretensions, out of the county and in it;—out of it, because he has no character but that of a sportsman; and in it, because he and his family have already great influence there, an influence which it is on no good account desirable to increase. The University of Cambridge has been accustomed to claim a superior spirit of liberality over that of Oxford, perhaps with truth; but if it elect the Duke of RUTLAND on this occasion, the superiority will hardly be boasted any longer, since Oxford has had the merit of preferring a scholar out of place to a maudlin politician in. His Grace, however, by his great bustle on the occasion, and the visit which he paid to Cambridge the other day, is evidently alarmed for the event; and it is trusted, that the various manifestations which he has made of his anxiety, in ways certainly very far from what is dignified or delicate, will have their proper effect on the Members of the University,—an effect, not intended by himself, but naturally resulting from his own conduct, and equally to be expected from the learning, the liberality, the respectability and the *self-respect* of that celebrated body.

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The PRINCE REGENT has been pleased to refer the Petition of Dr. HIGGINS (given last week) to the LORD CHANCELLOR, who is to report to his Royal Highness concerning the matters which it contains.—This is as it should be. Had the Petition been presented a few months ago, as his MAJESTY *could* not have read it, it would have rested entirely with other, perhaps interested, persons, whether the Sovereign should have heard one word upon the subject.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

RUSSIA.

St. Petersburgh, Feb. 15.—The Privy Counsellor Prince Alexis Kourakin, brother of the Russian Ambassador at Paris, has solicited and obtained his dismissal as Minister of the Home Department. His papers have been entrusted to the Privy Counsellor and Senator M. de Rosadewiew, who was attached to the interior Administration.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

On Tuesday last, a labouring man went to Digby, near Sleaford, from a neighbouring village, to attend a cock-fight; while intent on the sport, he fell down speechless and expired immediately.

On Tuesday morning a fire broke out at Norwich, in the extensive premises of Messrs. Culley, grocers, which raged with great fury.—The casks of oil, hogsheads of treacle, chests of tea, and other combustibles, occasioned such a volume of fire, that the whole city was illuminated. Nearly an hour elapsed before the engines, which were in bad condition, could be used with effect. The flames were arrested at length, and the adjoining premises but little damaged, with the exception of Mr. Freeman's new house, the upper part of which was destroyed, and his valuable furniture much injured. The damage is estimated at between 8 and 10,000l. There has not been such a fire at Norwich since the memory of man.

ASSIZES.

York.—Trial of James Whitehead, for attempting to murder his sweetheart.—The prisoner pleaded Guilty, but by the advice of the Court, and the repeated intreaties of his Counsel and friends, he reluctantly pleaded Not Guilty. The prisoner, who was a good-looking young man, seemed greatly affected during the whole of his trial. The prosecutrix had lived servant with a farmer, at Heden, in whose service the prisoner also was. The young man had paid his addresses to her, but she shewed considerable shyness and reserve to the prisoner. Ann Ockleton, the prosecutrix, when she appeared to give her evidence, was so agitated, that it was with great difficulty she could proceed. She is about 20 years of age, and a handsome young woman:—She said, that on the evening of the 4th of September, she went with her aunt to milk in a field about half a mile from Aldborough; on their way they were met by the prisoner, who said—"How do you do, Nancy?" She answered—"Very well, thank you." The prisoner then stopt, and she said—"If you mean to go with us, I will return home." The prisoner replied—"No; I do not want to go with you;"—and then turned and walked towards the town, and the witness and her aunt went forward. On their return home, they met the prisoner, who spoke to her aunt, and desired her to leave her with him, as he wished to have some talk with her; which her aunt declined; when the prisoner said he did not care for her, and, turning himself round, said—"Stop!" and drew a knife from his pocket and opened it, on which witness and her aunt set up a loud cry, and witness let fall the milk-pail. She then ran back two or three yards, and was followed by the prisoner, who caught her in his arms, and threw her on the ground, he falling with her; he then cut her throat with a knife; and after being wounded in the neck, she wrested the knife from him, and threw it over the hedge; and while he was seeking the knife, she ran away, the prisoner pursuing her; and almost immediately met Isaac Ellard, who took her under his protection.—Isaac Ellard said, he met Ann Ockleton and James Whitehead pursuing her. She exclaimed "Save my life!" and witness shouted out, "my friend, what have you been doing?" To which the prisoner replied, "I do not mean to hurt you or any man or woman on the earth, but Ann Ockleton, and I mean to have her life, if it be possible. Give me your hand, for I shall be hanged for her, and so I will go to the gallows, and be hanged like a dog." Witness said, "no, my friend, I hope you have done nothing yet that will hang you." Prisoner said, "yes, I have cut her throat, and if I had not lost the knife, I should have killed her upon the spot, and she would now have been a dead woman." During this conversation, himself, the prisoner, and Ann Ockleton, were walking towards Aldborough. The prisoner wished to shake hands with her, which she refused.—The Learned Judge said it was possible the prisoner was much attached to the young woman, whom he suspected of a coldness towards him; and that under the influence of these feelings, he had worked himself into a violent phrenzy of passion; but the violence of passion would not justify an act that deliberately aimed at the life of a fellow-creature; if it did, a door would be opened to all the excesses and crimes which persons under the impulse of passion might be induced to commit; and no evidence had been given to induce the Jury to think that the prisoner was not in a sane state of mind at the time this act was perpetrated.—The Jury found the prisoner *Guilty*, but recommended him to mercy, on account of his good character.—The prisoner, on leaving the bar said, "May God be the comfort of my prosecutrix!"

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

During the early part of the week, there was no business of public importance before their Lordships.

Thursday, March 21.

THE MAN STARVED TO DEATH IN PRISON.

Lord Holland said, his object in bringing forward this case was, that some enactment might be introduced into the Bill now before the House respecting imprisonment for Debt, which would prevent the recurrence of such melancholy events as the present. He attributed no blame to the Keeper of the Marshalsea Prison, but that place, which he had visited, was in such a ruinous condition, that it was truly dreadful. He now moved that the evidence taken before the Coroner's Jury be printed.

The motion was granted, after an observation from the Earl of Aylesford (Lord Steward of the Household, under whose jurisdiction the Marshalsea remains). He said, a new building was erecting with all speed; and that no blame attached to any person, in the case of the death of the unfortunate man.

INCREASED VALUE OF DOLLARS.

Lord Grenville observed, that it was with both astonishment and concern that he had heard of the late advance which the Bank Directors, with the advice of the Privy Council, had thought fit to make in the *current coin* of the realm; for notwithstanding the miserable quibble resorted to,—that Dollars issued by the Bank were not the coin of the realm, but Bank Tokens,—it was quite clear that they were as much the current coin as any other species of money.—Ministers were altogether blamable in thus usurping the prerogative of the Crown.—There could be no doubt that the advance in the value of coin was a *silent but sure sign of the depreciation of paper*.—At present he should only move, "that a Copy of the Resolution recently adopted by the Directors of the Bank respecting the advance in the price of Dollars from 5s. to 5s. 6d. be laid before the House."

Earl Bathurst said, that Ministers were prepared to shew that the measure was not adopted without wise and solid reasons. Silver, which was a marketable article, had risen in price, as all commodities would, in proportion to the demand. Any one however must plainly see the difference between the current coin and dollars, which were merely Bank Tokens, like Bank Notes. At the same time, he must protest against any conclusion being drawn from this measure, that it was a proof of the depreciation of Bank Paper. It had originated only in the advanced price of silver.

Lord Lauderdale contended, that all history shewed that such measures proved the depreciation of the paper money.—The Dollars were circulated under the authority of Government,

Earl BATHURST said, that Government had not declared them a legal tender.

After some further conversation, the motion of Lord Grenville was agreed to.

PORTUGAL.—REGENT'S MESSAGE.

The Marquis WELLESLEY rose to shew the propriety and necessity of continuing our aid in the defence of Portugal, at the present moment in particular, which, he said, was the very crisis of the fortunes of our magnanimous Ally. By the aid already afforded, Portugal had been stimulated to exertions before unknown in her annals, *which had produced a tide of success hitherto unparalleled in the history of any country in Europe.* Her militia had been rendered worthy of a regular army, and her peasantry had been called out and armed.—On every principle of national honour and national policy, it was wise to continue and support the contest in Portugal. Experience, too, had shewn its wisdom and policy in the strongest light.—The Noble Marquis concluded by moving an Address to the Prince Regent, corresponding with his Royal Highness's Message.

Lord GRENVILLE said, the question was, whether it was proper to double the amount of last year's supply, which then amounted to one million, whereas the present call was for two millions. Did the present financial state of England warrant such a disposal of such a sum? But his objection was not to this or that particular sum, but to the whole system. Europe would not be relieved by the present system, and if we failed, that failure might lead to our own ruin. He had always taken the most lively interest in the fate of Spain and Portugal, but he was convinced that the exertions we were now making would be found wholly unavailing to our allies, and highly injurious to ourselves. What, in fact had been done hitherto? The British army was indeed still in Portugal; but it possessed only the ground on which it stood. What prospect of a successful issue did this condition of things afford? In short, the finances of the country would not admit of such additional drains, and if the system was persevered in, it would rapidly hasten the country into the gulph of inevitable ruin.

Lord LIVERPOOL defended the system. The war in the Peninsula had now continued for three years, yet in Spain not one province had been entirely subdued, and of the six provinces of Portugal, in four there was not a single French soldier. If the Peninsula was subdued, what would be the situation of Ireland? The safety of that country required that every sacrifice should be made, for so long as the war was continued in the Peninsula, so long was it kept from our own firesides.

The question being put, the Address was agreed to without a division.—Adjourned.

Friday, March 22.

The Royal Assent was given by Commission to the Mutiny Bill, the Population Bill, the Silk Manufacturers' Bill, and nine private Bills.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, March 18.

PORTUGAL.—REGENT'S MESSAGE.

Mr. PERCEVAL had to propose a much larger sum for the aid of the Portuguese, than that voted last year: but the policy of the measure was now put beyond all doubt. The Portuguese had not been backward in supporting the contest. Thirty thousand troops were payed by England, to which the Portuguese had added 15,000, besides a Militia of upwards of 40,000 men—making a force altogether of 85,000. Ministers had never asserted that the war in Portugal would be completely successful; they had only said that there was a probable ground of success, and all the past facts proved that they had not formed a wrong judgment. The Portuguese troops had shewn themselves worthy of the example set them by the British. The French themselves had borne witness to their bravery, by saying, that at Busaco the British had dressed up the Portuguese like English troops. Look, too, at the altered tone of the French: we are not now to be driven into the sea, but to be ruined by the expences of a protracted warfare. All this proved that Government had chosen the most proper ground for contending against France. In no other part of the globe would the French Emperor have met with such a formidable resistance.—Mr. Perceval concluded by moving,

"That a sum not exceeding 2,000,000l. should be granted to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, to enable him to continue and maintain in pay the Portuguese Troops, and to carry on the contest with the Enemy."

Mr. PONSONBY remarked upon the impropriety of tying down his Majesty (as was done in the late treaty), never to acknowledge any King of Portugal but one of the House of Braganza. Ministers now spoke of the failure of the revenue of Portugal, owing to its being so much occupied by the enemy. This was in direct opposition to the assertions in the Gazette, which had said that the French could only command the ground upon which they stood! But they now, it seemed, were fighting upon a chosen theatre. Did the Hon. Gentleman mean to say that the slip of ground between Lisbon and Cartaxo was that chosen spot? The great object was to save Spain. Could this be effected by a campaign in such a quarter? They began on the frontiers of Portugal, and had been compelled to retire before the enemy, losing all the fortresses from Almeida to Lisbon. Was this the success which warranted the proposed motion? Every body knew the enormous losses which followed our supplying the Portuguese with money. Upon every 100l. sent out, there was a loss of 30l. Such assistance would end in our own ruin. And at what a time, too, was this grant proposed! Just when six millions were to be given to support our falling credit.—Bonaparte, if he chose, could command 400,000 troops, in addition to those he had in the Peninsula. The French Emperor was now collecting a force in the North, and perhaps he was well pleased at our employing so many men in Portugal. Had the Right Hon. Gentleman looked to these things? Did he know where this force was to be directed? Nothing had happened either in Spain or Portugal which could warrant a hope of success. There was not a shadow of ground for believing that we could destroy the resources of France; but our own were notoriously falling off, and the country, under such a system, would soon be totally exhausted.

Mr. FREEMANTLE and General TARLETON followed on the same side; but the resolution was finally agreed to.

COMMERCIAL CREDIT.

After the House had gone into a Committee on the Commercial Credit Bill, the following were among the Commissioners appointed:—

The Lord Mayor, the Hon. W. Lambe, Sir James Shaw, Sir Chas. Pole, Mr. Pole, Mr. Harris, Mr. Lygon, Mr. Bosanquet, Mr. Halford, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Grant, Mr. Thornton, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Curwen.

The various clauses were agreed to, after some conversation.—Adjourned.

Tuesday, March 19.

THE POOR.—LINCOLNSHIRE HUMANITY.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM moved the second reading of the Bill for the better Government of the Poor of Spilsby, in the county of Lincoln.

Sir SAMUEL ROMILLY wished to call the attention of the House to this Bill, which, though professedly of a private nature, was of great public importance. It contained in it clauses of a most extraordinary nature, such as, he believed, never before found their way into any Act of Parliament. One of the clauses went to enable the Master of the Poor-house to punish the unfortunate pauper by solitary confinement, without any limit to the period, if on any occasion he should misbehave himself. Another provided that if any pauper damaged the house, he should be adjudged a felon, and be punished as such. There was another, which was unexampled in this country for the arbitrary rules it laid down. By it the Governor, or Master of the Poor-house, was enabled to let out the paupers for hire to daily labour, in the same manner as the negroes in the West Indies are let out on job-work, at the rate, perhaps, of sixpence or one shilling per day, according to the quantity of work

w[illegible]n feeble and exhausted strength might enable him to perform. There was a clause also for contracting for supplying the House of Industry in the county with these poor slaves, so that any parish in the county might obtain from this great mart of pauper slaves a constant supply.—(*Hear, hear!*) These were the principal regulations and penalties inflicted on the poor; but now came the lenient clauses which appertained to the master's supposed ill conduct. One of the clauses respecting him, provided that, if he should be found guilty of embezzling or stealing any of the goods, his offence (greater, because entrusted confidentially) should be visited with this punishment only, restitution three-fold in amount to the value robbed.—(*Hear, hear!*)

Sir JAMES GRAHAM declared that he did not know such clauses were in the Bill, or he certainly should not have moved the second reading. He did not believe the Hon. Members for Boston and for Derby, who had taken charge of the Bill, and in whose absence he moved, were acquainted with what had been stated by the Hon. and learned Gentleman; he should, therefore, in order to give the parties an opportunity to consider this extraordinary Bill, move, That it be read a second time this day se'nnight.—The second reading was postponed.

IRISH REVENUE.

Sir JOHN NEWPORT called the attention of the House to the deplorable state of the Irish finances. The Speech from the Regent had avowed that the revenue was deficient, and he could show that it was wholly incapable of meeting the public debt. The Irish Debt, within the last ten years, had *trebled* itself. In 1801 it was about 30,000,000*l.* and now it was 80,128,792*l.*—Sir John here entered upon a variety of statements, and concluded by moving a Resolution on the subject.

Mr. FOSTER admitted that the subject required the serious consideration of Parliament, but denied the correctness of the Hon. Gentleman's statements. He hoped the motion would not be pressed at present, as the proper documents were not before the House.

After some debate, in which the Ministers acknowledged the necessity of appointing a Select Committee to examine into the subject, Sir JOHN NEWPORT withdrew his Resolution, and moved for the immediate appointment of one.—Ministers, however, opposed it, on the ground that it was not usual to take such matters out of their own hands; and the previous question being moved, it was carried by a majority of 27.

PRINTERS' BILL.

Mr. H. MARTIN moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Act passed in the 39th of his present Majesty, which pressed most heavily on Printers and Publishers. By this act, which was designed to prevent the clandestine printing of seditious writings, a distinct penalty of 20*l.* was incurred for every single copy of a handbill even, which had not the name, place of abode, &c. of the Printer. There was no appeal from the Act, however harmless the conduct might have been.—This had enabled various common informers to harass some most respectable persons, by artfully getting them to re-print the title-pages of curious old books in imitation of the copy furnished, which of course could not have the name of the present printer, or it would not be a copy.—There were various other cases of great hardship, and penalties to the enormous amount of 100,000*l.* had been incurred for printing the most inoffensive things.—Mr. Martin's object was, to give Magistrates a discretionary power when informations were laid, and to let the parties who felt themselves aggrieved appeal to the Quarter Sessions for redress.—Leave given to bring in the Bill.

EX-OFFICIO PROSECUTIONS.

Owing to the lateness of the hour, Lord FOLKSTONE again postponed his motion till Thursday week.—Adjourned.

Wednesday, March 20.

This being the day appointed for the General Fast, the House did not meet for the dispatch of business.

Thursday, March 21.

THE PRESS IN INDIA.

Lord A. HAMILTON wished that the state of the Press in India should be laid before the Legislature. When the House was informed, that no Newspaper could be published in India without the previous inspection of a Government Secretary, he was persuaded his motion would be agreed to. But the restrictions on the Press in India were not confined to newspapers; they prevented almost every publication, whatever its nature or tendency. Even the publication of the late trials which had taken place there, had been prohibited by the Indian Government.—His Lordship then moved, that all the regulations which had been promulgated in India since 1797, should be laid before the House.

Mr. DUNDAS opposed the motion. He maintained that the liberty of the press cou'd not with safety be admitted in India. No European was allowed to live in India without the express consent of the Company. Had they, therefore, not a perfect right to say to any individual there, "If you do not conform to our regulations, you must quit the country?" Suppose a Clerk in any office here was to become the Editor of a Newspaper, would not his Superior be justified in saying, "I do not chuse that you should thus occupy yourself; you must therefore quit my service?"—This was *all* the Indian Government had done. The unrestrained liberty of the press in India would altogether endanger our sovereignty in that quarter of the globe.

Lord FOLKSTONE, Sir T. TURTON, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. WHITBREAD, supported the motion. Mr. W. said, (in reply to a remark of Mr. Lockhart, that the press had taken some licentious strides in this country) that in his opinion, when the publications of former times and those of the present were compared, the strides which the press had taken were backward rather than forward. This discussion, he observed, would only shew the world the wretched situation of those who were called our fellow-subjects, but who were not so in fact, but merely those over whom we and our fellow-subjects are the despots.

Sir J. ANSTRUTHER, Mr. WALLACE, Mr. GRANT, Mr. PERCEVAL, and others, opposed the motion,—which was negatived by a majority of 35.

A Select Committee on India Affairs was then appointed, and the House adjourned.

Friday, March 22.

The Market Harborough Canal Bill was thrown out on the second reading, by a majority of 44.

THE NAVY.—ADMIRALTY COURTS.—BARRACKS, &c.

Mr. YORKE, in a Committee of Supply, moved that 1,167,351*l.* be granted for the Ordinary of the Navy for 1811.—On the question being put,

Sir WM. SCOTT rose to reply to the complaints which had been made of the delays experienced in the decisions of prize causes.—He denied that there was any unnecessary delay. To do justice to all the parties, many of whom were persons in distant parts of the globe, a considerable time must elapse.

Sir C. POLE still maintained that great delay took place.—Ships had been captured in 1799, and not condemned till ten years afterwards. In 1811, not a sixpence was got from captures made twelve years before. So great indeed had been the delay, that three-fourths of those entitled to receive the profits were dead.

After some further conversation, the subject dropped.

Mr. WHARTON moved that 482,125*l.* be granted for the year's cost of the Barrack Department.—He said that new Barracks were to be built in Jersey, Alderney, in Scotland, and the Isle of Wight,—those in the latter place were for the German troops.

Mr. BANKES wished to be informed, whether the works were now carrying on.

Mr. WHARTON was not then prepared to inform the Hon. Gentleman what works had already been begun, but they were all contracted for.

Mr. BANKES felt astonished that the Hon. Gentleman should come to that House for a grant of money to pay works before he knew whether they had been commenced.—(*Hear! Hear!*)

Mr. WHARTON said, he was not accustomed to be spoken to in so dictatorial a tone, accompanied by corresponding looks!

After some further conversation the Grant was voted.

The following Grants were then voted without any discussion:—

For the relief of Dissenting Clergymen in Ireland and Scotland	£ 9280
For defraying the Expence of Works building and completed in the Mint, in 1811,	21,500
To pay the Erection of additional Machinery erecting at the Manufactory of Messrs. Bolton and Watts,	4000
To defray the expence of making a Tunnel under the Mint,	4,500
For the use of the Board of Agriculture,	4,900

The Report was ordered to be received on Monday.

COMMERCIAL CREDIT BILL.

On the motion for the third reading of this Bill,

Mr. WHITBREAD thought the present boon would only increase speculation, and ultimately produce greater evils than were already felt. The only way, in his opinion, in which this country could be saved, was by adjusting our differences with America, and restoring the peace of Europe, thereby opening those markets which we formerly supplied.

On a division there was a majority of 37 for the Bill.

Several Amendments were proposed and agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time and passed.—Adjourned till Monday.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTCIES ENLARGED.

T. Dawson, High-street, Wapping, grocer, from March 26 to May 7.

C. Sanker, James-street, Covent-Garden, from March 23 to May 4.

BANKRUPTCIES SUPERSEDED.

W. Harrison, and W. Gorst, Little Tower-street, London, W. Harrison, North End, Middlesex, and S. Cooke, late of Deptford, Durham, merchants.

R. Waylen, Devizes, Wilts, victualler.

BANKRUPTS.

W. Batty, Wakefield, Yorkshire, cloth-manufacturer.
S. Beaton, Dowahead, Somersetshire, jobber.
B. Bradley, Farnham, Surry, common-brewer.
T. Brownhill, Leeds, silversmith.
W. Carter, jun. merchant.
T. Cooper, Higham, Kent, butcher.
T. Dutton, Liverpool, cabinet-maker.
J. Ellam, sen. Westleigh, butcher.
M. Fawcett, Liverpool, music-seller.
J. Hartley, Manchester, manufacturer.
W. Hooke, Beccles, Suffolk, grocer.
T. Jackson, Cheetham, Lancashire, cotton-manufacturer.
J. Kemp, Nowell-buildings, Islington, dealer in hay.
J. Lewis, Abergavenny, cabinet-maker.
W. Marsden, and J. Hoghton, Tower, Lancashire, cotton-manufacturers.
W. and H. Marsden, Manchester, cotton-manufacturers.
J. Midwood, Huddersfield, Yorkshire, maltster.
S. Moore, Wolverhampton, saddler.
E. Norris, Ilchester, innholder.
T. D. Rees, Great May's-buildings, victualler.
H. E. Sievers, Hackney-road, merchant.
R. Soames, Upper East Smithfield, merchant.
J. Taylor, Bristol, manufacturer.
J. Waistle, Liverpool, builder.
M. West, Colchester, merchant.
E. Whitteubury, Manchester, merchant.
J. Wibberly, and W. Pepper, Nottingham, hosiers.
H. Worms, Wapping Dock-street, upholsterer.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTCIES ENLARGED.

J. Cooper, Oxford-street, umbrella-maker, from March 16 to May 4.

J. Stott, Failsworth, Lancashire, cotton-manufacturer, from April 2 to 10.

S. Cannom, Beckingham, Essex, carpenter, from March 23 to April 6.

J. Heywood, Manchester, machine-maker, from March 26 to April 9.

BANKRUPTS.

T. Parker, Bristol, merchant.
M. Sloper, Bathwick, Somerset, taylor.
W. Heywood, Manchester, small-ware-manufacturer.
T. Hall, Stoke-Newington, victualler.
S. Dadd, Rochester, grocer.
T. Sharrock, Preston, shopkeeper.
R. Gibbon, jun. Monkwearmouth, Durham, coal-fitter.
J. Adams and J. Spragg, Great St. Thomas Apostles, stationers.
W. Batty, Wakefield, Yorkshire, cloth-manufacturer.
W. Hinton, Painswick, Gloucestershire, grocer.
J. Hay and J. Hill, Borough High-street, linen-drapers.
J. Flouluders and Co. Huddersfield, Yorkshire, linen-drapers.
J. Hamper, High-street, Borough, hosier.
W. Carter, jun. Liverpool, merchant.
T. Hill, Clayworth, Nottinghamshire, butcher.
R. Northmore, Bedminster, Somersetshire, victualler.
T. Parkin and T. Scobell, Broad-street, merchants.
J. Franks, St. Mary, Lambeth, cabinet-maker.
W. Chapman, Birmingham, stationer.
J. and J. Whitehead, Liverpool, brewers.
W. and J. Baiss, Warminster, Wiltshire, coopers.
T. Dell, Macclesfield, Cheshire, silk-manufacturer.

W. C. F. is in the right respecting the propriety of translating passages quoted from the Latin, &c.; and the Editor has not only always thought so, but endeavoured to do it as well as he could, whenever he was not prevented by any particular hurry, which might hinder him from doing justice to the original.

Mr. B——r, on reconsideration, will probably see that the trash upon which he animadverts is altogether unworthy of notice.

The third LETTER TO MR. WILBERFORCE, next week.

PRICE OF STOCKS ON SATURDAY.

3 per Cent. Consols for Money, 64 ¾ | Consols, Acc. 64⅝

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, MARCH 24.

THE Householders of Westminster, at their Meeting in Palace-yard on Monday, agreed upon an Address to the PRINCE REGENT, more bold, constitutional, and *to the purpose*, than any which the Court has witnessed during the present reign. It traces all the evils of the State to that sole and actual cause, a thousand times proclaimed, and millions of times deplored,—*the Corruption of the House of Commons*:—it reminds the PRINCE of the notorious, acknowledged, and defended *because* acknowledged, custom of trafficking in parliamentary seats;—it reminds him of the power acquired by a set of narrow-minded and tyrannical men in consequence of this corruption,—a power which they maintain in spite of *himself* and of the people;—it reminds him of the Prince of Spain, who lately ruined himself in consequence of being surrounded by worthless favourites of the old Court;—it reminds him that after all our struggles to set danger at a distance, after all the privations we have endured, and

the blood we have shed, no possible remedy has been or can be found for our disorders, without recurring at last to Reform; and it concludes with a kind of request for the expression of his Royal Highness's opinion on the subject, by telling him how rejoiced and reassured the citizens of Westminster would be in knowing that their Prince felt as they did respecting the necessity of that Reform and the usurpations of the Borough Faction. Nothing, I believe, would give so much heart-felt gratification to the whole country; and dumb as the corruptionists might be stricken at first by such an acknowledgment on the part of his Royal Highness, we should soon find the venal writers of the day joining in the general chorus, or rather wondering how any body could be surprised at a declaration so seasonable and patriotic, and the *motives* of which were not to be doubted. Let such men say and do what they will, and turn and wind as they please according to events, one thing has become certain, that Reform must very soon begin in some way or other;—and it's advocates at once shew their loyalty and disinterestedness by continually pressing this necessity upon the attention of those who ought to begin it for their own sakes as well as those of the people, and who may still have the honour of atchieving what numbers of men in humble life have risked their substance and safety to point out to them. If the Westminster Address is highly creditable to the manliness and strong sense of those who framed it, it's honest old English candour is also no small compliment to the Prince whom it addresses; and it is hoped, that he will prove it to be a just compliment, by feeling it to be an honourable one.

A second edition of the evening papers of yesterday, gave us what it called "*important* news from Portugal," in the following telegraphic dispatch:—

"*Plymouth Telegraph.*

"*Massena has retreated from Santarem:—Lord Wellington in pursuit, 5th (or 15th, doubtful).—Garnet arrived.*"

These retreats and pursuits are very fine things for tickling the ears. Most probably the retreat is, as usual, an alteration of position; and the pursuit a little look out on the occasion, enlivened by the seizure of a few unfortunate stragglers.

☞

It is supposed that the *accouchment* of the French Empress has taken place, as on Wednesday last the batteries on the French coast fired *feux de joie*; and, in the evening of the same day, the whole of Boulogne was illuminated, and a great quantity of fire-works let off. From the great number of guns discharged, it is inferred, that the Empress has got a Son.

The Challenger sloop of war has been captured by a French squadron that escaped from Cherburgh. The enemy's force consisted of a ship of the line, a frigate, and two brigs. They stole out of Cherburgh on the 12th, and were creeping along shore within the Island of Jersey, when they were discovered by the Challenger. She stood towards them to reconnoitre, and having ascertained what they were, she was proceeding to communicate the intelligence to some of our cruizers, when she unfortunately carried away her fore-top-mast, which gave the frigate an opportunity of coming up and capturing her.

Colville.—This person is a native of Portugal, and not a Frenchman.—The necessity for his strict confinement is said to originate in the following circumstances:—He had been in the service of Government, but Ministers discovered that he was more in the interest of Bonaparte; and when he was seized, he had obtained accurate information of the names and residences of certain agents in the pay of England. Should he, therefore, be dismissed the country as an alien, or even released from confinement, the lives of those agents would be placed in the utmost peril. There is too, it is said, a clause in the Alien Bill, which enables Ministers to confine foreigners upon *suspicion*,—a fearful power in weak, or indeed in any hands.

The Stamford News.—Mr. Drakard, the proprietor of this public-spirited Print, will be brought up next term, to Westminster Hall, to receive judgment. It is not a little singular, that at the very time his trial was proceeding at Lincoln, Ministers were silently introducing a clause into the Mutiny Bill, which will have the effect of diminishing, if not of altogether abolishing, the punishment of FLOGGING,—that very punishment which the article in the *Stamford News* so properly and forcibly reprobated.—What a monstrous proceeding is this! Ministers see the necessity of altering the system, and yet they pursue into a prison the man who has manfully advocated the cause of humanity.—As to the charge against the Editor of the *Stamford News*, that he is an admirer of Bonaparte, those who read that paper know well that it is a foul calumny, originating in ignorance or malice.—Mr. Drakard will probably be sent to jail; but if ever a man merited the sympathy and support of his fellow-jects, Mr. Drakard is that person. His Paper possesses great merit, and those who advocate Reform will doubtless take care that its increased circulation shall afford the proprietor some small consolation under his undeserved sufferings.

It is hardly necessary to inform our readers, that the Directors of the Bank, by the *advice* of the Privy Council, have advanced the nominal value of their dollars, from 5s. to 5s. 6d. owing, as they state, to the advance in the price of silver.—The value of the guinea, it is expected, will next be advanced; and there is already a report that five shilling bank notes will soon make their appearance.

A Quarterly Meeting of the Bank Proprietors took place on Thursday. It was generally expected that some interesting discussions would have occurred respecting the recent rise in the value affixed to "Dollar-*tokens*." No such discussions, however, took place; but Mr. Cattley endeavoured to prove that Paper had not "depreciated in its value," because Merchants were daily seen to crowd the avenues leading to the Discount Office, "almost to suffocation!" This assertion only shews, that the *Notes* of the Bank are *more* valuable than the *Bills* of Merchants; it does not prove that *Bank-paper* is as valuable as the *current coin* of the Realm.

The second reading of the Bill for a third regular Theatre did not take place last Monday; it was postponed to convenience Mr. SHERIDAN, and will be read to-morrow.—The opposition of Mr. S. and his friends is of course expected; but it is believed that the Bill will receive the support of all disinterested Members, and that it will finally pass.

JURYMEN.—A very useful and interesting little work has just been re-printed, written by Sir JOHN HAWLES, Solicitor General to William III.—It is called "*The Englishman's Right: a Dialogue between a Barrister at Law and a Juryman; plainly setting forth,*—1, *the antiquity*—2, *the excellent designed use*—3, *the office and just privileges of Juries, by the law of England.*"—At this particular moment, when ministers are straining every nerve to put down free discussion, it is peculiarly the interest as well as the duty of Englishmen, narrowly to look into their rights.—By the law of the land, they have much in their power, and if they will not exercise that power in favour of their boasted liberty of the press, they must expect to witness its annihilation under those very forms which should contribute to its protection.

Mr. FINNERTY, notwithstanding his ill health, is still confined in the same damp apartment, of which he complained. A small extension of time for exercise in the area surrounding the prison has been allowed; but upon the whole, Mr. FINNERTY's treatment is little better than that of a felon. And for what is this gentleman so treated and confined? He published certain things respecting Lord CASTLEREAGH, the *truth* of which was supported by the oaths of fifty persons, though the hearing that truth was refused by the Court!

A very spacious building has lately been erected near the *Westminster School*, where the *blackguards* of the metropolis may enjoy the *humane* amusement of *Cockfighting*.

A Constant Reader recommends to some Member of the Corporation of the City of London to move for a Committee to ascertain how far the rules and regulations made some years ago by the Court of Aldermen, have been complied with by the *Watermen* plying on the Thames.

The following is the close of the altercatory Dialogue that passed at the late Trim Assizes, between Lord Chief Justice NORBURY and ROGER O'CONNOR, Esq. after the latter had been found guilty of an assault on Mr. OGLE:—

Mr. O'CONNOR said that his observations alluded to his Lordship's conduct in the House of Commons when Attorney-General; to that conduct he imputed the partial treatment he had received; it had poisoned the opinion of the people against him; it had affected him in his character and in his dearest interests. But, however, he thanked the Noble Lord for the patience with which he had attended to the trial.

Lord NORBURY replied, that when the history of 1798 came to be fairly stated to posterity, he had no doubt but the Attorney-General of that day would appear as deserving the thanks of the country.

Mr. O'CONNOR.—Then, my Lord, for your satisfaction, I tell you I am writing that history.

Lord NORBURY said, that what he had said did not relate to Mr. O'Connor, but to his family, which had been troublesome, and disturbers of the peace.

Mr. O'CONNOR.—Your Lordship alludes, I presume, to my brother, now absent in France, with whom Government capitulated, and permitted to go abroad.

Lord NORBURY.—I will hold no further conversation with you, Mr. O'Connor: let the Gentleman be taken into custody: we will consider of the sentence.

Mr. O'CONNOR was sentenced to be confined One Month.

Most of the Daily Papers last week published a horrible story about a man at Dockhead, who on Friday week attempted to put an end to his wife and three children, by means of a leg of mutton which he had rubbed with arsenic. There was no truth whatever in the account: some wag had imposed upon the Editors, by putting into plain prose an old ballad, beginning,

"There lived a man near to Dockhead,
"A wicked man was he,
"Who laid a plan for to destroy
"His wife and children three."

THE KING'S ILLNESS.

MEDICAL BULLETINS.

"*Windsor Castle, March* 17.

"His Majesty continues much the same as he has been through the last week."

"*Windsor Castle, March* 19.

"His Majesty is in every respect as well as he has been through the last week."

"*Windsor Castle, March* 21.

"There has been no material difference in his Majesty's state within the last eight or ten days."

The *Morning Chronicle* of Monday stated, "upon unquestionable authority," that "at eight o'clock yesterday morning, the LORD CHANCELLOR waited upon his Royal Highness the PRINCE REGENT, in order to inform him that the Physicians had reported, "that his MAJESTY had relapsed into that state in which it had become necessary to prevent his seeing any of his family." The *Chronicle* further stated, that the degree of "irritation" which his MAJESTY felt arose from the prospect which was held out of his return to public business.—The truth of this statement the *Courier* denies, observing, that "if his MAJESTY, as is not impossible, had some irritation in the course of Saturday, it was not, we understand, deemed at all alarming by the Physicians. *His Majesty has been, in the happiest times of his life, subject to* HURRIES *or* IRRITATION."—The daily papers of the week state, that his Majesty takes his walk as usual, and that he is regularly visited by the QUEEN and his children. When he walks, however, *Dr. Willis* is in attendance. From all these contradictory statements, it is quite impossible to collect the exact truth; but we are decidedly of opinion, from an attentive examination of the events of the last fifty years, that though his MAJESTY has arrived at a great age, though he is afflicted with blindness, and is visited by repeated attacks of insanity,—yet, if he be not even now competent to the performance of public business, he will shortly be able to conduct the affairs of the nation *as well as ever he was in his life.*

KOLLI—COLVILLE.

Deal, March 10.

MR. EXAMINER,—The state-mystery in which the case of the prisoner Colville is enveloped, and in the maintenance of which mystery the Select Committee for the investigation of that case unanimously concurred, brought forcibly to my recollection the name of a certain Baron (real or pretended) charged with a plot to carry off the royal captive, Ferdinand VII., and whose history occupied a considerable portion of the public prints last year. The only one I have at hand is *Cobbett's Political Register*, to

which I have referred, and wherein (*Vol. xviii. p. 312,*) I find the following mention of the personage in question:—

"BARON KOLLI.—*The Morning Post* of the 3d instant [September] says, *We again most positively assert that there is no truth in the report that Baron Kolli has returned to this country.*—There is something very mysterious about this Baron Kolli. It is strange that nobody knows any thing of the family of this man, who has been stated to have been the bearer of a letter written by the King of England. A person ought to be pretty well known before he be so entrusted; and though the Baron did not succeed, and appears to have made a most miserable hand of the business, he was, as it appears, entrusted with a good deal. But in all other cases it has come to light who the person really was; and why not in this case? Why not let us know the name of this worthy gentleman, to whose zeal at least, the cause of our Ally, the most Catholic King, is so much indebted?"

If my memory serves me, another of the public prints made out the said Baron to be an Irishman, speculating thereon that his name was most probably *Kelly*: but is not *Colley*, a proper name well known among us?—It is in fact common both to a celebrated dramatist, *(Cibber)* and to a Noble Marquis now at the head of the Foreign Department of State.—*Quere.* Whether there is not an identity between the enterprising Baron and the Cold Bath-fields prisoner, or any, at least some, connection between the cases?—It being worthy of remark, that while certain newspapers asserted him to have been hanged on the French coast in sight of our cruizing ships, others as positively maintained that he was safe and at large; insinuating pretty broadly that he was a sort of decoy-duck, or little better than a second edition of Lord Liverpool's and Mr. Hammond's confidant, *Mehée de la Touche.*

Perhaps you, Sir, or some of your political readers, may be able and will condescend to satisfy the curiosity of a country QUID-NUNC.

AN APPEAL.

SIR—The most usually pleaded excuse of those who seek relief from the uneasiness of compassion and the necessity of being charitable, is *the number of the distressed.* The impossibility of helping all is supposed to prove in the clearest manner in the world the futility of assisting any. Alas! Mr. Examiner, comprehensive benevolence is in the power but of a few, and multitudes would walk through the vale of mortality without the satisfaction of removing the cause of a single sigh, the complacency of wiping away a single tear, were they to allow the vague magnificence of the desirable to disturb the humble capacity of practice.

To such of your Readers as are satisfied with the conciousness of being enabled, in the slightest degree, to alleviate some of the unavoidable evils of society, I venture, through your med um, to represent a case of procrastinated suffering and distress, relievable by a very little on their part, and only sought in exact proportion to the most rigid and absolute necessity.

A Tradesman, who failed in business through various miscarriages and misfortunes, in addition to his other miseries, at length fell into a consumption, which gradually destroying all capacity for industry and employment, finally left him and a child wholly dependant on the exertions of his Wife. With exemplary patience and perseverance the unfortunate woman endeavoured to support them by every means in her power, until the disorder of the unhappy husband arrived at a stage in which to quit him for any period was impossible. A detail of the wretchedness, privation, and misery, which ensued, is hardly necessary. Those who have frequented the haunts of distress, or by any other means have been led into a knowledge of the shifts and misery of the entirely destitute, require little information on this head. The devouring resource of the pawnbrokers, and the gradual disappearance of every moveable of value, soon produce the climax of poverty. At this very crisis (about a fortnight past) the husband died, and the unhappy Partner found herself a widow without a shilling to bury him, without friends of ability to apply to, destitute of every article of decent clothing, and utterly sunk and dejected by abstinence and sorrow.—The decent pride which commonly belongs to those who have sunk from better prospects, had hitherto concealed the extreme of their distress from general observation. The death of the Husband would permit this concealment no longer; and his Widow met with that sympathy and compassion from the witnesses of her misfortunes, which did honour to their feelings; but actual assistance, with the exception of some of the personal offices of humanity, was out of their power.—Such was her situation when accident brought me acquainted with it, and which induces me to seek the aid of the benevolent in her behalf. But little is required—the ability and energies of the dejected Applicant are considered fully equal to the support of herself and child, if enabled to exert them by a small sum, which would preserve to her the few articles of furniture which remain, redeem her apparel, and pay the trifling debts in the neighbourhood it has been impossible to avoid contracting.

With you, Sir, I leave the Address of the Party herself, and also of respectable Individuals who will testify to the truth of the above particulars.

On perusing what I have written, I perceive I have been enabled to convey but a very general statement of the various facts which has impressed me with a sense of the merits of the object for whom I interest myself. Were I but briefly to define that which has most forcibly operated upon me, it has been the unabating perseverence manifested in the maintentoce of a helpless husband and child through a long train of sickness, sorrow, and misfortune, without hope, and comparatively without aid. The heroism of private life is endurance; and I know not whether a more lofty opinion ought not to be formed of that nature which can silently perform the most painful and difficult duties in chearless poverty, unsoothed by approbation and unencouraged by applause,—than of those more brilliant dispositions which eager for distinction lead to the performance of very extraordinary actions, when multitudes are spectators and general admiration the rewatd.—I am, Sir, Yours faithfully. AMICUS.

March 23, 1810.

[The Address and References have been left at the *Examiner-Office*, where a ready attention will be paid to every communication and applicant.]

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 90.

COVENT-GARDEN.

MR. COLMAN'S melo-drama of *Blue Beard*, one of those wretched compounds of pun and parade, which serve to amuse the great babies of this town and to frighten the less, still forms the nightly boast of this "classical" theatre. With the jokes about troopers *trooping* off, and persons unable to keep a secret became their teeth *chatter*, the reader is no doubt well acquainted, and quite willing, I trust, to have no further acquaintance; and it is needless to point out the gross want of costume which the author has manifested from beginning to end, not only in the incidents, but in the language and the habits of thinking. In one of the songs a Turkish girl is made to talk of her lover's "ringlets," which said lover, agreeably to truth, is represented on the stage with a turban and no hair at all. But the stage is not so judiciously inconsistent in other parts of the story; and it has been well remarked in the *Times*, that the introduction of paintings in a room is contrary to the religion as well as customs of the Maho-

metans. It may be observed, in fine, that the story has not even the usual moral of childish tales: there is, it is true, the "punishment of curiosity," and the curiosity may be a wrong one; but the excitation of it is at the same time wanton, the discovery it makes hurtful to the infant spectator, and the punishment itself unjust. The production indeed is unworthy of criticism, and would not have been noticed in this paper but for a singular novelty that has lately been added to the representation. That actors should make beasts of themselves is no new thing; but the *gravis Esopus* of our Stage, Mr. KEMBLE, must turn beasts into actors; and accordingly, after having had dog actors at Drury-lane, and jack-ass actors (emblematic wags!) at Sadler's Wells, we are now presented with horse actors at "classical" Covent-Garden. These prepossessing palfreys appear to be about twenty in number, and come prancing on the Stage into rank and file with as much orderliness as their brethren at the Horse Guards, facing directly to the spectators, and treating them with a few preparatory curvettings, indicative of ardour; so that when the riders draw their swords, the appearance is not a little formidable, and seems to threaten a charge into the pit. After this, and a few picturesque gallopings over a bridge, they do not appear till the last scene; when all their powers are put forth, and *Blue Beard* and his myrmidons utterly eclipsed. Firstly, the aforesaid gallopings are repeated over mound and bridge, till every steed has reappeared often enough to represent ten or a dozen others; then one or two of them get interestingly entangled in a crowd; then a drawbridge, breaking down, is scaled by three or four at full gallop, which calls down the thunder of the galleries;—then a duel ensues between a couple of the horsemen, of whose desperate blows the reader may have a lively idea, if he has ever seen the impassioned images that tap the hour on Saint Dustan's. The excessive politeness, indeed, manifested by these duellists, and the delicate attention they pay to each other's convenience, reminds one of the celebrated battle of Fontenoy, where the officers of the French and English guards coming together, pulled off their hats to each other, and mutually insisted upon giving up the honour of the first fire. The only difference is that the consistency of the thing, the *qualis ab incepto*, was not so well kept up in the latter instance. Lastly, comes the grand display, the dying scene; and here it is difficult to say which is more worthy of admiration, the sensibility or science of these accomplished quadrupeds. When I saw them, there seemed to be but three who performed this part of the ceremony, and it may safely be asserted, that never did horses die with so much resignation. If I knew their names (let us suppose they are *Twitcher*, *Twirler*, and *Whitenose*), I should say that *Twitcher* and *Twirler*, who were parties in the duel, had most emulation, and *Whitenose* most coolness. The two former seemed to be aware that they were in battle; the latter manifested an indifference to his situation, almost amounting to disdain. *Twitcher* and his antagonist were, if I may so speak, about the pitch of BROMTON and CLAREMONT, easy but majestic, and amiably severe;—but the presence of mind displayed by *Whitenose* was equal, at least, to that of LISTON. *Lord Grizzle* himself, in his dying moments, could not surpass his philosophic preparation and finished demise. While the other two were occupied with their own rencontre, he entered the stage with as much indifference as if nothing had happened, though it was soon evident that he had received his mortal wound, for after a little meditation he began to die, bending his knees one after the other, like a camel stooping to be loaded, and then turning upon his side and becoming motionless, just as a human actor does upon his back. The other horses, by this time, are disposed also in their respective attitudes; the dismounted warriors are seen fighting across their bodies;—drums, trumpets, smoke, and confusion complete the effect; and the close of the scene lets loose a thousand exclamations in praise of the new performers.

Joking apart, it is no doubt interesting to see of what so noble an animal as the horse is capable; and it is still more agreeable to be relieved from those miserable imitations of him, which come beating time on the Stage with human feet, and with their hind knees the wrong way. If it were possible to present the public with such exhibitions and at the same time to cherish a proper taste for the Drama, they might even be hailed as a genuine improvement in representation; for if men, and not poppets, act men, there seems to be no dramatic reason why horses should not act horses. But there are always two very strong objections, staring this kind of novelty in the face,—one respecting the public taste, and the other the poor beasts themselves. The success of such exhibitions is not only allowed to be a mark of corrupted taste with regard to better things, but it materially helps to produce that corruption. They are too powerful a stimulus to the senses of the common order of spectators, and take away from their eyes and ears all relish for more delicate entertainment. The managers and the public thus corrupt each other; but it is the former who begin the infection by building these enormous theatres, in which a great part of the spectators must have noise and shew before they can hear or see what is going forwards. In time these spectators learn to like nothing else; and then the managers must administer to their depraved appetite, or they cannot get rich. Are these the persons to cry out against the erection of a new and smaller theatre?

But the animals themselves are to be considered, with regard to *their* comfort. A sprightly horse has a profusion of graceful and active movements; and it is his nature perhaps to be fond of a certain kind of exertion. He delights, when in health and vigour, in scouring the fields; and feels, we are told, an emulous ardour in the race; but then the fields and the race-ground are proper places for him; the turf incites him to activity, and the open air breathes health and pleasure into his veins. On the other hand, it will take a great deal to persuade a rational spectator at the theatre, that the closeness of a stage, the running round and round, the bending of knees, the driving up steep boards, and above all, the mimicry of absolute death, do not give the animal considerable pain, and have not cost a hundred times as much in the training. It is a common observation respecting these horses at Covent-garden, that in galloping about the stage, they exhibit a manifest constraint and timidity; and when they pretend to come in at full speed, have a jumping and feeble motion resembling that of rabbits. We all know by what merciless practices, bears and camels are taught to dance; and any body who has been at a country fair, and seen the wretched mode in which dogs and birds are worried through their feats, will be slow to believe that the docility, necessary for such purposes, is obtained by good usage.—

The Arabs, it is true, and other nations, whose uncivilized state brings the animal and his master into familiarity from their birth, can teach their horses to perform a thousand surprising feats with no other means than habit and kind treatment; but this is a very different case;—the sphere of action is different, and the animal is put upon no other action than it is natural and pleasant to him to perform. The Managers of Covent-Garden should know, that what is said by many, and thought by most people, of the training of these horses, is not favourable to the humanity of their masters; and till there is some explicit statement on the subject, it will be as difficult to think otherwise, as it is impossible to applaud their introduction at all.

FINE ARTS.

BRITISH INSTITUTION EXHIBITION.

51. *The young Fifer.* W. Collins, jun.—This artist is making rapid advances towards the attainment of one of the highest stations in his particular department of painting, for though he has hitherto exhibited little more than the juvenile character, he has executed it with so true a portraiture of nature, and possesses so nice a discernment of the prominent features of early life, that it is impossible not to suppose that so correct and discriminating an eye could take a wider range along the more extended characteristic portraiture of maturer age. The clare obscure and colour of this picture are powerfully brilliant, and it is richly illuminated by a sunny glow that is in unison with the cheerful season of life here depicted. The main breadth of light strikes, as it mostly should, on the chief actor in the piece, in the brightest effulgence of the solar orb, and the subordinate lights, with the deep and diminishing shadows, are distributed with so tasteful a gradation, as to present every object with great distinctness, and at the same time with plenitude of effect. The circumstance of a boy fifing is rendered agreeably interesting by the appropriate incidents attendant on his infant audience. A boy has left off playing top to listen with absorbed attention to the early practitioner of music, and a girl, equally seduced by the shrilly notes of the fife, stands with delight and wonder at his premature skill, while she forgets her tea-kettle which has been long standing under a pump to be filled. A little urchin, better pleased with mischief than music, and taking advantage of the musical absorption of the party, is stopping up the bore of the pleasure-giving fife, by a thrust of his finger. For firmness and facility of hand, for clearness and force of colour, and for infantine truth and energy of character, this picture has been rarely if ever surpassed. It is to ornament the valuable collection of the Marquis of Stafford.

59. *The tempting Moment.* Same Artist.—This piece possesses all the merit of the former, but is a much less pleasing, if not a disgusting subject, as it depicts the early depravity of human nature,—that of boys stealing. With countenances which exhibit the embryo feelings of public defaulters, mean reversionists, public plundering sinecuremen, pickpockets, and highwaymen, they are sneakingly putting their pilfering hands into the dish of a poor old woman, whose apples are roasting, while she sleeps at her stall, lulled by the opiate influence of a frosty air. The Fine Arts, which confer higher honour on one of its able Professors than wealth and titles, than ribbons, stars, and garters, can ever bestow on all their votaries, are degraded in the delineation of subjects so dishonourable to our nature, except when some useful moral is appended to and deduced from them. They evince a most pitiful choice, especially when nature presents so numerous a variety of incidents that delight and cherish our best propensities.

11. *The Letter O.* M. W. Sharp.—In a painter who exhibits so much genuine talent, so heart-felt a conception, and so elegant an execution of his subject, any considerable aberration from truth is much to be regretted. The cause of this regret it is my duty to express, however unpleasant to the feelings of the artist. Not to do so, would evince but little regard to the necessary information of the amateur, or the advancement of genius. Mr. Sharp is deficient in the most important branch of colouring, that of the flesh. It is of a dingy vermillion and yellow oker complexion. In his conception of female beauty he is also defective. In other respects, this picture teems with genius. It contains a group of three figures; an old man teaching a boy his alphabet, and a young lady looking on, whose dress and air gracefully depict the exterior refinement of genteel life. The attention of the boy is rivetted to his book, as is that of the teacher. Were the Letter O unseen, the judgment of the artist would have as distinctly pointed out that letter to be the object of tuition by the form of the teacher's mouth. Such little incidents are valuable accessories to the main character, and bring the subject completely home to our minds. With the former exception, the colouring is rich, being warmed by the glowing light which is depicted as passing through a painted window. The drawing and multifarious touches on the head of the preceptor are correct and pleasingly elaborate; and the piece well sustains Mr. Sharp's pictorial rank in the department of genteel familiar life, which, with Mr. Chalon, he hitherto exclusively occupies.

R. H.

Mr. West's Picture of the *Miracles of Christ* will shortly be removed to the British Institution. The Exhibition will then close for a few days, and the Pictures already sold will be returned, which will make room for this grand work of art.—The Gallery will then be reopened to the public.

THE ARTIST'S FUND.

Friday being the second Aniversary of this laudable institution, a very considerable number of Artists and friends to the Arts assembled at the Freemasons' Tavern to celebrate it.

The dinner being finished, the Chairman, Mr. Devis, gave the following toasts:—

The King.—The Regent (drunk with great enthusiasm.)—The Queen and Royal Family.—The Duke of Gloucester, the Friend of the Arts, and may he succeed in his election as Chancellor of Cambridge.—The Royal Academy.

On this toast being given, Mr. West, for and on the behalf of that Institution, returned thanks in appropriate terms.

The British Institution was next drunk, with according tributes of approbation.

In the interval between each toast, several appropriate songs were sung by Messrs. Taylor, Elliott, Doyle, and a youth who has just made his *debut* as a treble singer. The Chairman then made the following statement respecting the objects of the Society:—

That it is the intention of this Fund to alleviate the pains of sickness, and to soothe the declining years of the superannuated artist: that after several meetings of the Committee, a general one was held on the 22d of March last, at the Freemason's Tavern, where several Resolutions were agreed to, and where a Joint Stock Fund was then established, as well as a Benevolent or Charitable Fund; the latter of which is intended solely for the relief of the Widows and Orphans of the Artists who are Members. At present, there is no other established provision for them, though almost every other profession affords some asylum, or prospect of relief, either by National Institutions, by Private Benevolence, or by Subscription amongst the Members.

The Chairman next gave, "The Father of the Arts in this country, the venerable Mr. West, President of the Royal Academy.

Mr. West, in return, gave, "Prosperity to this Institution, and the Health of his numerous Children, the Artists of the present day." He availed himself of the characteristic bestowed on him by his meritorious friend, the Chairman; and he concluded an interesting speech with inviting the company present, until Tuesday next, to see his last performance.

His speech was received with applause and acclamation.

On the Chairman's health being drunk, he returned the compliment to the company, in very polite terms.

The evening concluded with the greatest harmony.

THE LATE SIR FRANCIS BOURGEOIS.

Sir,—The ravings of disappointed avarice, and the whinings of humbled vanity, have on no occasion, perhaps, been more loud and piercing, nor continued with greater pertinacity, than on the decease of this estimable man. Most extravagant hopes have been indulged, and they have met with a severe mortification. *Hinc illæ lacrymæ.* Your Correspondent A. O. has boasted of the length of his acquaintance with Sir Francis Bourgeois, and as he chooses to remain unmasked, I have not the means nor wish to contradict him. From his Letters, however, I am tempted to suspect, that this intimacy must latterly have experienced some interruption, and that he is by no means gifted with the feelings of a more generous adversary.

Art thou too gone? ere anger could subside
And love return, has great Erasmus died?

However this may be, certainly no enemy could step forward with more alacrity to assail the reputation of the dead, not without at the same time indulging some little malignity to the living. As I too, Sir, am no "captious man," I will not quarrel with him for his sneer at an Institution, because founded by a *Player*. If he has been long acquainted with Sir Francis Bourgeois, he probably knows a little of Mr. Kemble: I shall therefore leave this last mentioned gentleman to thank him as he deserves. My anger is kindled because he has dared to insinuate, that "in the present instance the unquestioned wish of raising the indigent and returning friendship with interest, in the languor of sickness, gave way to longings after galleries and tombs, the monuments of vanity and useless benefaction."—The very reverse, Sir, of all this is the fact. Sir F. Bourgeois was not "splendid rather than just, nor ostentatious rather than affectionate." He had not suddenly, nor in the languor of sickness, taken up the idea of bequeathing his paintings, and a large portion of his property, to Dulwich College. As his fortune had taken its rise from his endeared friend Mr. Desenfans, he was above all things anxious to testify his gratitude, and shew the world the veneration in which he held his deceased patron and benefactor. For this purpose, it was his wish that Mr. Desenfans' collection of pictures should be handed down to posterity sacred and entire; and further, that it should form the most prominent object of curiosity in any Institution to which it might be entrusted. He likewise requested that his (Mr. Desenfans') name should alone be attached to the Exhibition, and the attendants appear in his livery. This, Sir, should seem to be gratitude, and not ostentation. After discharging this debt, his next wish was undoubtedly to provide for those who had just claims upon his bounty; and it is deeply to be lamented that the hand of death prevented the execution of this intention. After reading over his will, he stated his purpose to make some minor regulations in a codicil, to charge his estate with a small annuity, and perhaps to leave some trifling memorials of his regard to his surviving friends. This oral communication has been magnified by some into a detailed written instrument, ready for signature; by A. O. and others into a formal *dictation* to his Solicitor. What then have his Executors to publish? In fact, the answer of the "worthy Warden" ought in all reason to have satisfied A. O. upon this point. Had he known him, I am assured it would, for nothing can be more remote from his character than any approaches to subterfuge or evasion. I cannot here resist the opportunity of noticing a whisper which has lately fallen upon my ear, that some undue influence was exerted, and some improper arts practised, to induce Sir Francis Bourgeois to bequeath his property in the way he has. All who were acquainted with the firmness and manliness of his mind must well know, that such practices were very unlikely to be successful with him; and all who have any knowledge of the persons alluded to are, I am persuaded, well satisfied that they are wholly incapable of resorting to them.—I now take my leave of your Correspondent, with assuring him (if it will give him any pleasure to learn the fact), that the person for whom he appears most interested is not likely to suffer by the loss of her excellent relative. His bounty still flows, and will continue to flow, in the same channel, with an undiminished, if not an enlarged, stream.

I am, Sir, your very humble servant, R. C.

WESTMINSTER MEETING.

Some thousands of the inhabitants of Westminster met on Monday in Palace-yard, for the purpose of addressing the Prince Regent.—The High Bailiff having explained the object of the assembly,

Major Cartwright came forward to propose an Address to the Prince, which, he said, could on no ground whatever be one of congratulation. One thing, indeed, must be highly satisfactory to them, that the throne was at last open to their complaints, after the Royal ear had been so long closed to their grievances.—The worthy Major then went into various arguments to shew the propriety of their line of conduct, and concluded by moving the following Resolution, which was carried:—"Resolved, That this Meeting think it right to make known to the Prince Regent their sentiments on public affairs, particularly on the absolute necessity of a Parliamentary Reform, not only for his Royal Highness's own consideration, but in a hope also, that, in case of surrendering his charge, he may report the same to his Majesty; evil Counsellors having, for many years past, deprived the People of this realm of access to the Throne."—(*Loud cheers.*)

Mr. Walker seconded the motion. The cause of all their evils, he said, was the want of a due representation of the People. To this was the increase of taxes to be ascribed—taxes for carrying on a war, and not to protect their liberties. By the want of a due Representation of the People, impunity was extended to the bloated individuals whose opulence grew with the public burthens. The approaching failure of some commercial speculators had lately brought them to renew their lease of subjection to the Minister; and it is said that no man can make a good Minister who does not understand the tactics of the House. Could the People wonder that their endeavours to obtain Reform obtained no countenance from men grown old in selfish pursuits, and degraded by bad practices? Just demands were obstructed and evaded by chicanery and subterfuge, the only arguments that could be opposed to the honesty and good sense of nature.—(*Acclamations*)—They could not expect affairs to go on well under the present long duration of Parliaments. According to Junius, the representatives of the people had six years for sinning, and one for atonement. Such a long

interval before account emboldened men to be negligent of their duty, and to listen to the allurements of self-interest. The Electors of Westminster, in their choice, had set an example highly to their honour, and consistent with their interest and dignity. Such conduct as Sir Francis Burdett had pursued, might lead many cities and boroughs to return patriotic representatives. But if Parliament were reduced to its original annual duration, and interest to yield to merit, the national mass of intellectual ability would be brought into action. Towards the end of the next year, or at the beginning of the following, Parliament, which was now in its fifth session, would be dissolved; and it would behove the People to bear in recollection those persons who had opposed Reform, or warded it by saying, this was not a fit time. The present Ministers had been content to revive the frantic cry of popular delusion, "No Popery," although they disregarded the sober, persevering, and steady call for Reform. We had been told to look at the state of our finances, now compared with the year 1783. It was a strange cause of comfort, that our taxes had increased! Finance (said Mr. W.) means taxation; and when the imposts are so heavy that they can scarcely be endured, we are to be consoled by the Income-tax schedules! These burthens formed one cause of the increasing number of bankrupts. Public opinion was not allowed a free vent by the press. The patriotic writer (said Mr. W.) finds his way to a prison, without the advantage of that great bulwark, a Grand Jury. Our ancestors made it unlawful for a Special Jury to try, in any case, for life. If not for life, why for liberty? Without liberty, life is a burthen. He then reminded the Meeting, that the old-fashioned, circuitous proceeding by indictment, in case of libel, had been superceded by the *short cut*, the information *ex-officio*. The man, continued he, who vents his free opinion, is pursued as a criminal. One of our greatest public writers, Mr. Cobbett, whose luminous and unsophisticated pages instruct the country, is under confinement for two years, heavily amerced, and compelled to give security for seven years. His offence was that of reprobating the corporal punishment, in plain terms, the flogging of the Local Militia, under the auspicies of German soldiers. Mr. Hunt, however, whose publication had been declared by the Attorney-General a continuation of Mr. Cobbett's libel, had been pronounced "Not Guilty," by the verdict of a *London*, not a *Lincoln*, Jury, composed chiefly of *Common* Jurors, whose names would be held in everlasting remembrance. Northampton, Cold Bath-fields, Lincoln, and Dorchester Jails, are the repositories of some of our ablest writers. The country could only be saved by a timely and radical Reform in the Commons House of Parliament.—*(Great applause.)*

Major CARTWRIGHT then came forward and read part of the following Address, the reading of which was finished by Mr. MALLETT:—

"TO THE PRINCE REGENT.

"THE DUTIFUL ADDRESS OF THE HOUSEHOLDERS OF WESTMINSTER.

"*May it please your Royal Highness!*

"Sincerely attached to your person, as on the present occasion will be evinced, it is with a lively sensibility we participate in the sorrow your Royal Highness must feel for the cause of your having been called to your present situation. But we trust that, by taking on you a nation's cares, demanding, as they now do, an undivided mind, the private griefs of your Royal Highness must be less painfully felt.

"It has been, Sir, with extreme dissatisfaction we have contemplated those habitual suspensions of the Royal Authority, some of which have been but recently brought to light, that have been so derogatory to your Royal Highness, and are in their nature so portentous: but, we trust, that a repetition of such suspensions, which we know not how to distinguish from usurpations, will be rendered impracticable.

"Independent of these unconstitutional proceedings, there had been much cause of complaint, if not of suspicion, in the obstacles interposed by Ministers for preventing the accustomed access of the Subject to the Sovereign: wherefore, Sir, in now beholding your Royal Highness Regent of the Kingdom, we are inspired with a cheering hope; because his Majesty, should his health be happily restored, will assuredly, through the faithful report of your Royal Highness, learn the true condition of his kingdom, and the real sentiments of his loyal and aggrieved people.

"In habitual suspensions of the Royal Functions, it is not a mere token we discover whence to infer the existence of evil. In breaches of the Constitution so flagrant, we do not witness mere slight indications of something wrong; but they are so many proofs that a *Borough Faction*, trampling on the Rights of Crown and People, triumphant reigns. In the example now fresh in all our minds, the indignant nation hath seen, in full display, that Faction's odious pretensions, and your Royal Highness has been made sensible of its detested power.

"Thirty years ago it was declared by Sir George Saville, in his place in Parliament, that *the Commons House was no more a Representation of the People of this Kingdom, than it was of the People of France.*

"The Seats in that House, both for close and for open Boroughs, *are notoriously marketable.* One of them, as we are credibly informed, was once bought by a French King's mistress, for her English Correspondent, in time of war; and it stands on record, that at another time those seats were purchased wholesale by the Nabob of Arcot, for his intriguing agents. None then, Sir, can assure us, that at this day a whole troop in the pay of a Napoleon may not sit and vote in that House.

"The inveteracy of this disease was made manifest to the whole world, when, in the case of Mr. Wellesley, Lord Castlereagh, and the present Minister, Mr. Perceval, *all accused of trafficking in those Seats*, not only no punishment ensued, but the traffic was vindicated, and for this extraordinary reason, *that it was become as notorious as the sun at noon day.*

"Here, Sir, is the cancer of the State. With a House of Commons rapidly becoming, by the virulence of this pest, a mere mass of corruption, death must ensue, unless the cancer to its last fibre be eradicated, and free Parliaments restored.

"For such a restoration, your Royal Highness must perceive that no talent, no wisdom, no virtue in Ministers, can become a substitute.

"Proud and light men have, indeed, in all ages, pretended to such a skill; puffed up with a conceit of their own sufficiency, they have been abundantly ready to dispense with the Constitution. But did not all history proclaim the absurdity of such pretensions, that absurdity must, to every reasoning mind, be self-evident.

"The nature of the nefarious *System of Government* which hath grown with the growth, and strengthened with the strength of the *Borough Faction*, is ascertained to us by long and calamitous experience. Its root is tyranny, its fruit is ruin. It scourged America into resistance: Ireland it tortured into rebellion. It dishherited your Royal Highness of many and flourishing States; and the numerous Seamen of those States it alienated from the English Navy.

"It was *this System of Government* which peopled our prisons with innocent persons, for the malignant prosecution of whom Ministers took shelter under a Bill of Indemnity, passed by themselves and their abettors.

"It is *this System of Government* which hath pauperized more than a million of our English fellow subjects; and which daily augments their number.

"It is *this System of Government* that covers our once free land with Bastiles and Barracks; that brands the millions of England as cowards, needing foreign soldiers for defenders; and that brings back upon us the doctrines and cruelties of the Star Chamber.

"*This System of Government*, by a blind infatuation, confers on French and other foreign Roman Catholic Officers, what offensively *refuses to native* Irish, filling the hearts of the Irish millions with *indignation* and resentment;—combustible passions, which, so pent up, cannot without terror be contemplated.

"*This System of Government* hath, in the end, demonstrated the wickedness, and exposed the folly, of those who, to tear

from the people all hope of a just Reform, forced them into an unjust war: for, after hundreds of millions have been unsparingly squandered, after rivers of blood have been inhumanly shed, after the nation, foiled and disgraced, has been reduced to a forlorn hope—after all this has been brought on us by corrupt, short-sighted, and tyrannical men, for putting down and treading under foot PARLIAMENTARY REFORM, it is at length seen, that in this Reform, and in this Reform alone, national salvation can be found.

"During the machinations for fettering your Royal Highness, and bringing you under the galling yoke, you must, Sir, have noticed the Faction's base ingratitude to the King your Father, for whom, with the deepest hypocrisy, they affect the greatest devotion. That *System of Government* which has been our bane—that *System of Government* which had its origin in the worst corruptions, and the most treacherous counsels of ill-advisers, they made no scruple to call THE KING'S OWN SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT.

"There is no view, Sir, of the Nation's affairs, but must impress on your Royal Highness a conviction of the pernicious consequences of a *System of Government* founded on a House of Commons *in which the People are not represented.*

"Wherefore the subject which, above all others, for its paramount importance, we are anxious to rivet on your thoughts, is that which your Royal Highness has found to be the uppermost in our own—PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

"It being our confident hope, that the present Session will not pass away without a renewal of Parliamentary efforts in that cause, we believe, Sir, that a public knowledge of an earnest desire on the part of your Royal Highness for the success of those efforts, would assuredly cause their early triumph.

"Convinced indeed we are, that whenever the Crown and the Subject, for mutual self-preservation, shall make common cause in pursuit of this indispensible object, the odious, the intolerable usurpation of the *Borough Faction*, smitten by the united rays of the Law, the Constitution, the Throne, and the Nation, must like a noxious exhalation melt in air and disappear.

"Against all counsel for protecting or fortifying the *Borough Faction*, who are hostile to your every interest, we trust your Royal Highness will be on your guard. Ours, Sir, were we entitled to offer it, would be counsel of another complexion; as will be that of all those loyal and faithful advisers, whose desire it is that your Royal Highness should escape the toils of the wicked, that you may not be unconstitutionally shackled, and made to appear the Patron of a Faction, instead of standing free, dignified, independent, and illustrious, at the head of the Nation.

"Once, Sir, identified with the *Borough Faction*, farewell to greatness! Think, Sir, *of a Prince of Asturias and a Godoy!* Surrounded by the toils of that traitor, the unhappy Prince became instrumental in undermining his own reversionary throne, and in accelerating the downfall of the Kingdom of his inheritance. In the *Borough Faction*, Sir, *behold an army of Godoys.*

"It is this Faction, Sir, ostentatious of its usurped Dominion, which, for several months together, you have now a second time seen carrying on government over the English Nation, without either a King or a Regent; thus striking in public opinion at the utility of the Kingly Office; thus striving to deepen the root of their own usurpation, and to accustom the people to the most extravagant exercise of their hateful power.

"Wherefore, Sir, we repeat that it is a Faction which alike tramples on the Rights of Crown and people. All but the name of King this insolent Faction hath usurped. Nay, Sir, with a King's authority it is not content; the Faction aims at nothing short of being despotic.

"When, therefore, your Royal Highness, with us, shall be convinced, that the usurped authority of the Faction is utterly incompatible with 'the safety, honour, and dignity of his Majesty, and the welfare of his people,' which, as Regent, 'you have sworn you will in all things, to the uttermost of your power and ability, consult and maintain,' that conviction in the mind of your Royal Highness will be to us a source of the most animating hope, and a presage of recovered Rights and Liberties.

"Were it not, Sir, a law of nature, that none can taste the godlike pleasure reserved to the patriot saviour, who hath not first acutely felt the pain of contemplating public wrongs and calamities, the Citizens of Westminster would have to regret, that the wrongs and calamities of their country should have made the principal theme of this their first salutation of your Royal Highness, in the character of Regent.

"But having not failed to dwell also with emphasis on that REFORM, which is the sole remedy for the Nation's political evils, they trust they have given the best proof of their anxiety, that the blessings of a grateful People should await your Royal Highness; and that by all posterity your name should be venerated as long as human records shall endure.

"It is thus, Sir, the Citizens of Westminster give you their pledge, that, in all your exertions for saving the State, they with life and fortune are determined to stand by your Royal Highness."

The following resolutions were then unanimously adopted:—

"Resolved, That this Meeting approve and adopt the Address which has been now read.

"Resolved, That the HIGH BAILIFF, together with Sir FRANCIS BURDETT, our representative, are requested to present to the Prince Regent the dutiful Address of this Meeting.

"Resolved, That the thanks of the electors of Westminster are due, and are hereby given, to their faithful Representative, Sir Francis Burdett, for his unqualified denial of an assertion made in December last, "That the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons of Great Britain and Ireland, do lawfully, freely, and fully represent all the Estates of the People of this Realm,' contrary to notorious fact—a fact, and a wrong, of which the People of this Realm have so long and so constantly complained, but unfortunately without redress."

Mr. WISHART then moved a Resolution of Thanks to Sir FRANCIS BURDETT, which was carried with acclamation.

Sir FRANCIS BURDETT said he could not but feel the utmost satisfaction and gratitude for the free, unsolicited, and unbiassed approbation of his conduct, which was manifested on the present occasion. He did, indeed, feel that approbation more strongly at present than on any former ordinary, or even extraordinary occasion; for that approbation was freed from every thing personal, and bestowed on account of the principles which he had hitherto maintained, and which, he trusted, he should always maintain.—(*Applause*)—It was not necessary for him at present to enter upon these principles at any great length, as they were so amply discussed by the Gentleman who seconded the motion for the Address with such great ability, and in the Address itself, which was so ably penned. It was impossible for mortal man to represent these principles in juster or stronger terms than they were there represented. In that long speech, which they had heard with so much satisfaction, though that could not be called long from which nothing could be taken away without injury, nor that to which nothing could be added to make it complete, all the grievances of the People of England were justly derived from the root of corruption, which was planted in *that corrupt House of Commons, falsely stating themselves to be the lawful Representatives of the People*; who had assumed to themselves all the powers and prerogatives that the Kings of England did not possess and durst not exercise—prerogatives for claiming which one of the Stewarts lost his head, and another was expelled the country.—(*Applause.*)—It was well and truly said, that in that House lay the source of all our complaints. In that House the tree of corruption had its root, from thence it diffused its branches throughout all the land, the bitterness of the fruits of which were now so universally felt.—(*Applause.*)—He wished to advert for a moment to the question of Libel, which was soon to come under discussion in *that corrupt House of Commons*. When the question should come under discussion there, he would state his sentiments fully and explicitly on it, in the manner in which he was imperiously called on by his duty, as well as by every tie of gratitude, to do on every occasion; for if it was his duty not

to state in that House what he conceived to be false, it was equally his duty never to withhold what he conceived to be true. It was notorious that the gaols were at present full of our most eminent public writers; and there was scarcely a writer of any eminence who had not either been or was not at present under confinement. While countenance was given to every species of delinquency—to every species of oppression, every expression of independence was jealously watched, and visited with severe punishment. It was alone sufficient to prove to the People of England, whose feelings are so keenly alive to whatever regards their rights and liberties, that they are not duly represented, when they see themselves precluded from expressing their just sentiments. With respect to *ex-officio* informations, he had always stated, and should continue to state till he was better informed, that they were destructive of all the fundamental laws of the land. Perhaps he would be told that the laws to which he referred were obsolete—but he would be bold to say, that it was to these laws they must look, if they ever wished to recover their liberties. It was singular enough that all the former oppressions which the people of this country suffered, were exercised in opposition to Parliament, but all the grievances which were now experienced, were sanctioned by Parliament. Sometimes, indeed, these grievances were such, that those in possession of power were forced to yield from a sense of shame, and it was then they would come forward and pretend a remedy; but that remedy was only a palliation, and by no means went to remove the evil. Yet whatever it was, the good-natured people were generally satisfied, and fondly fancied they had obtained redress. There was another subject to which he wished to call their attention, and that was FLOGGING. Such was the military system (the ballot) that the whole people of this country were liable to be taken and *flogged*. Was this the liberty they so fondly boasted of? Major Cartwright had told them that Bonaparte was a formidable enemy, and that he was a great General; but whatever abilities he might have, and whatever were his resources, nothing more was requisite for our defence, but the liberty of the People of England—for a free nation must remain unsubduable. Were freedom not a source of strength but a principle of weakness, it would be unfortunate indeed for mankind; but the reverse of this has been established by God and Nature. Indeed no government can stand without possessing the affection of the country which it governs. They were called on by a hypocritical party for unanimity, and to avoid all measures tending to disurb that unanimity—while that very party was all the time doing what had the strongest tendency to produce disunion, and to which no good subject could give his assent. They had nothing to fear from Bonaparte. Give us, according to the homely saying, only "a free stage and liberty," that is all we ask. After being desired by them on a former occasion to present an Address to the King, he found that no means were left of approaching the Throne, that all entrance to the King was debarred, and that instead of the King they were in future only to be admitted to a Secretary of State. On that account he had refused to accompany their High Bailiff, whose conduct was uniformly deserving of applause, and entirely met with his approbation. He did not wish to see the Petition of the Electors of Westminster thrown into an empty box, no more to be noticed. He never, indeed, expected again to see the subject's right to petition the Throne of any avail during the remainder of this long and misguided reign. When he lately presented a Petition from them to that contaminated and self-convicted Assembly, and had the mortification to see that Petition thrown on the floor of the House, he thought he should never again have occasion to be the bearer of another Petition; but another occasion presented itself, where they might carry their complaints to one who, he hoped, had an ear always open to the voice of truth, and a heart alive to the sufferings of his people. On this occasion, therefore, he would assist in presenting their Address with the most unfeigned satisfaction.—(*Loud and reiterated applause.*)

The Thanks of the Meeting were then voted to ARTHUR MORRIS, Esq. High Bailiff, for his prompt attention to the wishes of the Electors, and for his conduct in the Chair.—After which the Meeting was dissolved.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

Richard Armitage, of whom so much has been heard, respecting his transactions with Roberts, in forgeries upon the Bank of England, in which establishment he was a clerk, was taken, on Tuesday morning, at an Inn about three miles from Ipswich, in a cross country road, by John Foy, accompanied by two Gentlemen from the Bank, a reward of 300 guineas having been offered for his apprehension, as long since as the 11th of August.—The prisoner went by the name of Barclay at the Inn, and he represented himself as a private Gentleman, who wished to reside secluded from the gaieties and pleasures of the metropolis. He spent his time in the association of the Gentlemen Yeomen in the country, with whom he used to take the sports of the field, and his wife, who had just gone through an accouchement, was the only person who knew his situation. The prisoner was surprised in bed, first by the hostess of the Inn, who informed him three Gentlemen wished to see him, and after one of the Gentlemen had been introduced, Foy followed and took him, and conveyed him to London in a chaise and four. He was taken to Marlborough-street Office, and after having been identified, and some other necessary forms gone through, he was committed to New Prison, Clerkenwell, for examination on a future day, where he now remains doubly ironed. The prisoner appears in good spirits.

Wednesday morning last, near Ballymore Eustace, the body of a poor peasant, of the name of Stephen Reynolds, was discovered outside his cabin door, mangled in a most shocking manner. It appeared that his skull had been fractured, his eyes forced from their sockets, his throat cut, and five dreadful wounds had been inflicted on various parts of his body. The murder of his wife had also been accomplished in the same spirit of savage wantonness; her throat had been cut across, and a wound appeared on her breast, so deep that her lungs were visible—and other wounds were also inflicted upon different parts. An unfortunate beggar man, who had on this dreadful night been admitted to share the protection of this ill-fated roof, shared also in its calamity; he was found in a similar situation with his host, his throat being cut across, and several stabs had been made upon his body. The only survivor was a little girl about nine years old, the only daughter of the owner of the cabin. We understand that a man, principally upon her evidence, has been apprehended, and is now in Kilmainham gaol.—*Saunders's News Letter.*

Wednesday a poor woman who resides in Mount court, St. Giles's, missed one of her children, a girl only four years of age. In her fright she put an infant which she had in her arms on the floor, while she went in search of her lost child, and on her return she found the baby dead. The cause of its death is not known. It had no appearance of violence.

MARRIAGES.

On Tuesday, at Leicester, John Edward Carter, Esq. of Scraptoft, to Miss Elizabeth Markland, of the former place.

On Saturday, Mr. Thomas Philip Hillary, to Mrs. Elizabeth Waters, widow of the late B. G. Waters, Esq. Surgeon to his Majesty's Forces at Bermuda.

DEATHS.

On Friday, after a lingering and painful illness, the Rev Joseph Thomas, of Abele-grove, Epsom.

Tuesday, in Great Ormond-street, Mrs. Thornton, widow of the late Godfrey Thornton, Esq. of Muggerhanger House, Bedfordshire.

On Tuesday morning last, in her 71st year, Mrs. Cromek, of Newman-street.

On the 19th of October, 1810, after a lingering illness, aged 29, Henry Fielde, Esq. Governor of Tantumquerry Fort, on the coast of Guinea, Africa.

On the 12th inst., at her mother's, in Half Moon-street, Piccadilly, Mrs. Mary Cook, aged 22, the wife of Mr. Charles James Cook, of Madras.

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